

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGERY

SESSION 1858-9.

BY

P. H. MCQUELLEN, D. D. S.

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

MARCH 1st, 1859.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS

PHILADELPHIA

J. H. JOHNSON & CO., PRINTERS, NO. 31 CARTER'S ALLEY

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PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGERY,

February 22d, 1859.

TO PROFESSOR J. H. McQUILLEN, D. D. S.:

Dear Sir—At a meeting of the members of the class of this institution, Mr. S. Atlee Bockius, of Pennsylvania, in the chair, and Mr. Andrew J. Watson, of Pennsylvania, Secretary, the undersigned were appointed a committee to solicit a copy of your Valedictory Address for publication.

Believing that a copy of the same must prove both instructive and interesting to all perusing, in the name of the class we anxiously await an answer.

Remaining very respectfully yours,

E. W. ROBBINS, of Penna.,	} Committee.
CHRIS. WASHBURN, of Mass.,	
S. ATLEE BOCKIUS, of Penna.,	

827 ARCH STREET,
Philadelphia, February 23d, 1859.

Gentlemen:—Your polite note of yesterday, requesting a copy of my Valedictory Address for publication, was received last evening. Complying cheerfully with the request, and begging you to tender to the class my warmest thanks for this mark of their esteem, I remain,

Yours truly,

J. H. McQUILLEN.

TO DRs. E. W. ROBBINS, CHRIS. WASHBURN and S. ATLEE BOCKIUS.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES:—

Actuated by an earnest desire for the advancement of our profession—knowing our duty, which would forbid the endorsement of one man, who was inadequate to the service that will be demanded of him, the Faculty of the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery cheerfully and conscientiously recommended you to the Board of Trustees, as gentlemen worthy to be received by the public in the capacity of Dentists; not doubting in the least your ability and willingness faithfully to discharge the arduous and responsible duties of the dental practitioner. Tendering to you, as I now do, in behalf of my colleagues, our hearty felicitations, upon the favorable result of your collegiate labors, and our best wishes for your future welfare and usefulness in the communities where you may be called to serve, we ask that you would associate with the diploma you have received in the presence of this assembly, the highest moral and intellectual attainments, and the noble self-sacrifice which become one who has consecrated his life to the amelioration of human suffering. We ask this in behalf of your *alma mater*, and the profession whose ranks you have just entered. This, which we regard as a duty, is the more incumbent upon you, from the fact, that Dentistry has risen but recently from the chaos of empiricism, and assumed the proportions that entitle it to be ranked as one of the liberal professions.

Notwithstanding the great advance that has been made through the instrumentality of colleges, associations, and an

increasing and improving literature, within the last quarter of a century, there still remains much to be accomplished, and it is to the young men that the arms of the profession are extended, imploring help. In this age, when the watch-words that assail our ears from all sides, are reform and progress, let them not plead in vain. On the contrary, let each of you warm his heart and animate his endeavors, with the hope of being useful to the world, by advancing the profession of his choice. Remembering, that if those practitioners who have preceded you, and through whose exertions this great change has been effected, had looked upon the profession with eyes of indifference, it would not have reached its present degree of excellence.

Dr. Johnson truly said, "It is the duty of every man to endeavor that something may be added by his industry to the hereditary aggregate of knowledge and happiness. To add much can indeed be the lot of few, but to add something, however little, every one may hope; and of every honest endeavor, it is certain that, however unsuccessful, it will be at least rewarded."

Deeply solicitous for the advancement of the profession to the highest possible point of excellence, and desiring that you should perform your part in this great work, I have for the purpose of indicating how this noble end can be accomplished, selected as the theme of my parting address to you, the mental cultivation, the professional attainments, and the principles of conduct that should characterize the dental practitioner.

Brought in contact, as he is, with every grade of intellectual culture, from the highest to the lowest, it must be evident that he should either have enjoyed the advantages of a good education in youth, or, convinced of its importance later in life, supplied early deficiencies by extraordinary effort. Made acquainted, in the course of his studies and reading, with

philosophy, moral and physical; history, ancient and modern; poetry and literature in general, he should, on all general topics of conversation, if not perfectly at home, be at least able to participate in an interchange of sentiment, without appearing to disadvantage. Thus qualified, he would not only command the favorable opinion of intelligent persons, but he would also be enabled, by agreeable mental associations, to divert the attention of his patients from the unpleasant operations he is of necessity compelled to perform, and possibly contribute much to their pleasure and information. There are, however, higher considerations and nobler incentives to the acquisition of knowledge than the mere interchange of sentiment; for opening as it does other excitements than those of the senses, and another life than that of the moment, he would experience in the expansion of his mind, and in the multiplication of his sources of interest, a full reward for the time and labor expended in intellectual culture; and, when advanced in years, would enjoy that respect and importance which knowledge always communicates to the aged. And should his faculties become impaired by age or disease, the frame itself will be respected for what it once contained.

One thus enlightened in general literature could not but be sensible of the importance of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the science of his profession. Perfectly familiar with every thing that appertains to theory and practice, he should, in addition, instead of being satisfied with a superficial knowledge of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, the principles of medicine and surgery, be thoroughly conversant with those sciences. I do not wish to be understood that he should read every treatise which has been written in these departments, but that he should select out of the immense mass of materials before him, such, as in his own judgment, and the ripe opinion of enlightened counsellors, combine the advantage of intrinsic worth and adap-

tation to his peculiar wants. Not content with the mere speculations of the closet, he should take advantage of every opportunity to interrogate nature and compare her answers with the statements of others, and the suggestions of his own judgment. Let the subject under investigation be either structural or functional, normal or abnormal, the torch of inquiry should be carried to the farthest extent of his abilities and means of observation; not for the purpose of bolstering up preconceived opinions, but the establishment of the simple truth.

Associated with this knowledge of the science, to meet successfully every emergency that may arise in his daily practice, he should possess skill, courage, self-possession, and foresight of no ordinary character. These qualities are decidedly essential to the thorough practitioner. In no occupation is there occasion for the exercise of greater skill, than is demanded in the performance of the varied and complicated operations that the dentist is called upon to undertake. The most profound theoretical knowledge therefore, if unaccompanied by mechanical dexterity, will be of little use to its possessor in a profession such as ours.

In the discharge of his duties, his standard is ever an elevated one, and he feels himself under obligations of the highest nature. Far from limiting himself to that degree of attention which may be sufficient to protect his reputation, he is never satisfied unless with the full conviction that he has done all within his power for the relief and advantage of his patient. He investigates the cases that are submitted to him carefully and patiently, and having satisfied himself as to the proper course of treatment, allows no weak fears or false tenderness to prevent him from proposing it to the patient, and no personal inconvenience from carrying it fully and promptly into effect.

You can readily imagine, gentlemen, that attainments such

as these come not by inspiration, and yet their acquisition does not demand, as some would have us believe, a rare combination of talents that only the favored few possess. But, application, industry, energy, untiring energy, and an incapability of surrendering to indifference or delay, the great end to be accomplished, is absolutely required. With these, though their possessor enjoys no great superiority of native talent, every thing can be effected. Without them, the gifted victims of indolence and ennui can accomplish nothing. Every one has observed the enervating effects of inactivity upon the physical structure and energies of man; and thus it is with his intellect, when the faculties are unemployed. It matters not, however great may have been his original capabilities, if he fails to exercise those talents that an all-wise Providence has vouchsafed to him, they become weakened and relaxed; and he is compelled to give place to those who, though his inferiors in point of talent, surpass him in application and industry. We often hear it said of a gifted one: "If he would but exert himself, how much he could accomplish!" Tell us not of what a man can do, but what he does do. Intellectually, as well as physically, man is destined in this world to earn his sustenance by the sweat of his brow; and he who fails to observe this law, must pay the penalty. The consciousness of possessing superior talents should not, therefore, beget undue presumption, or tempt one to give way to the seductions of ease or indolence; nor, on the other hand, should excess of modesty deter the timid from developing his latent capacities. In mastering the science and art of the profession, there are many difficulties to overcome; this, however, instead of discouraging, should but stimulate to exertion; for difficulty, though a severe instructor, develops the powers and resources of those who manfully wrestle with it. In every walk of life there are obstacles,

before which the timorous and feeble yield, that the determined and energetic overcome. How much more noble is it

“To stem with heart and hand
The roaring tide of life.

* * * * *

Than, in the lap of sensual ease, forego
The God-like power to do, the God-like aim to know.”

Having directed your attention only to attainments, it remains to consider the principles of conduct that should actuate the dental practitioner. On this point, any professional reputation which is not based upon a high-toned, fixed and unswerving morality, will prove utterly without foundation. To this end, he should cultivate a pure heart, and a conscience void of reproach, for the world does and has a right to demand, that those who are of necessity charged with the extension of the highest, holiest confidence, should be men of probity, and of a high moral character. So elevated indeed should be his sentiments, that neither by word, look or act, could the sensibilities of the most delicate be wounded.

The highest professional attainments, and the most exalted virtues, are by no means sufficient without the addition of *good breeding*. There are, indeed, some who regard this as a matter of little moment, provided they possess the requisite skill and knowledge. Going still farther than this, others, emulating Radcliffe, (a distinguished London physician of the eighteenth century, noted for his rudeness, and who told his young friend Mead that “the secret to fortune, was to treat all mankind ill,”)—apparently pride themselves upon coarseness of manners. That one of extraordinary talent may raise himself to a desirable point of professional eminence, with the evidence of ill breeding manifest in his every action, is undeniable. But with such an one, it ought to be rather a matter of regret, than of pride, that his professional excellence should be marred by

what to the refined is so loathsome and repulsive. Occupying towards his patients, when in his office, the relation that a host bears to his guests, it is bad enough, under such circumstances, to be rude to those whose sex and strength enables them to protect themselves; but to treat the refined, delicate and unprotected lady with rudeness, is not only ungallant, but cowardly.

Politeness is never rightly estimated, except when we have occasion to regret the inconvenience of its absence. And as the truest politeness is but the expression of a kindly heart, he who would cultivate good manners most effectually, must arouse the finer attributes of his nature, cherish generous impulses, participate in the joys, the hopes and fears of those around him, and evince a disposition to defer his own gratification to the claims of others. Thus, whilst contributing to the comfort and happiness of those with whom he comes in contact, he will enjoy an exquisite pleasure that is denied the rude and selfish, and become, at the same time, a better, more agreeable and useful man.

Encountering, as he must, sensibilities rendered excessively acute by disease, he stands in need of the nicest discrimination to escape injurious collisions. A proper regard, therefore, for the *rights* and *comforts* of *others*, as well as his own comfort and success, makes it obligatory upon him to pay due attention to the courtesies of life. Towards his patients, then, his manner should be sympathizing and encouraging; giving consolation to the suffering, strength to the weak, and courage to the timid. And though firm in all essential particulars, making due allowance for the conditions of mind induced under suffering, he should not permit himself to be vexed by trifling irregularities, or occasional disregards of courtesy. Under no circumstances, however, should he submit to the dictation of the patient, or do that which his own judgment condemns. In such an emergency, he should, in a firm but

courteous manner, insist upon submission to what he knows to be right; and in the event of a refusal, decline further attention to the case.

But there are other duties which claim a strict observance. To his fellow practitioners he is bound by ties, less strong only than those which connect him with his patient. His intercourse with those members of the profession who are recognized as such, and enjoy the confidence of society, should be marked by a proper observance of the amenities and courtesies of refined circles. Far from indulging in disparaging remarks of the qualifications of a fellow practitioner,—when questioned by a patient, with regard to the attainments and capabilities of one worthy of respect, no petty jealousy or smallness of mind should induce him to damn with faint praise; but in a frank and manly manner give a thorough endorsement of his capacities. By cultivating pleasant relations with his fellows; taking advantage of every opportunity for an interchange of views in theory and practice, and giving a decided and hearty support to associations, having for their object the advancement of the best interests of the profession, mutual improvement, a generous and elevated social intercourse will be promoted. Courtesy, however, must by no means degenerate into subserviency. Remembering that science recognizes neither enmities or friendships, but demands of its votaries an earnest desire for truth, he should regard it as a duty to oppose the dearest friend, if he advance an erroneous view, and to support, though the whole world oppose him, the bitterest enemy in the promulgation of truth. Never hesitating to declare, in an open and decided manner, his honest convictions, he refrains, under all circumstances, from descending to personalities, as he esteems it far better to be the *object* than the *agent* of such practices.

The relations which bind together the regular members of

the profession, do not extend to those empirical practitioners whose only claim to the name of Dentist is the impudence with which they have assumed it. They are unworthy of notice, and are best left to themselves, to work out the deserved contempt which sooner or later will be their fate. He equally errs, who encourages them by his countenance, or brings them into notice by merited censure.

In discharging the duty entrusted to me, I have aimed at a plain, honest statement of the means by which our profession is to be truly elevated. You have been appealed to; let it not be in vain. Embarking as you are about to do, upon a new career, you should fully appreciate what there is to be accomplished, the course that is to be pursued, the time and labor required, and the sacrifices demanded. In solving the great problem of life, you must begin at the beginning. Having determined upon the object of your aim, considered it in all its bearings, become impressed with the whole extent of its application, and the entire weight of its importance; with a real love of learning, and a true ambition to be excellent, you should carry on a constant warfare against idleness, fatigue and vain enjoyments, and win a victory the most worthy over yourselves. Years of your early professional career, yes, your entire life, should be devoted to this struggle; fitting you for the discharge of the duties that you will be called upon to perform. Success, under such circumstances, would be attended by the pleasing consciousness of skill and energy properly applied and duly rewarded. How different from the ephemeral result, which is occasionally attained without plan or effort, and which is apt to glide from the feeble grasp as unexpectedly as it came. For the same indomitable energy, application, industry and talents that are demanded to *secure* a truly elevated position, are required to *maintain* it. Make, therefore, the best use of your time, for self-improvement, the advantage of your patients,

and the elevation of the profession. This last duty postpone not till the morrow, or say that time is wanting,

“For the structure that we raise,
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

“Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.

“Build to-day, then, strong and sure,
With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure
Shall to-morrow find its place.

“Thus, alone, can we attain
To those turrets, where the eye
Sees the world as one vast plain,
And one boundless reach of sky.”

In conclusion, gentlemen, the painful thought arises, that many of us have met for the last time. I know that the indulgence of feeling on an occasion such as this, would be regarded by some as trite and common-place; but I envy not the stoicism of the man who can sever ties such as have bound us together, without a pang of regret. Engaged as we have been, in investigations that have deeply interested us, relations akin unto brotherhood have sprung up between us, and though in parting, there is an apparent rupture of those ties, neither time nor distance can in reality sever them. In passing from us to your various fields of labor, whether to the different parts of our wide-spread and prosperous land; to the shores of old Europe, or the islands of the sea, you carry with you our best wishes, that the choicest blessings may rest upon you; and that yours may be lives of usefulness, such as will secure for you the rewards of time, and, above all, that of eternity.

In the name of my colleagues, and my own, I bid you an affectionate farewell!

MATRICULANTS.

SESSION 1858-59.

FRANCISCO REY,	-	-	-	-	-	Cuba.
FRANCISCO R. VGARTE,	-	-	-	-	-	Cuba.
ANDREW J. WATSON,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
DAVID WORRELL,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
GEORGE W. WARNER,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
M. P. BOYD,	-	-	-	-	-	South Carolina.
BERNARD A. DUKE,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
W. P. GIBSON,	-	-	-	-	-	Vermont.
JOHN S. BOWERS,	-	-	-	-	-	South Carolina.
GEORGE T. BARKER,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
CARTER DAY,	-	-	-	-	-	North Carolina.
HERRMANN ROTTENSTEIN,	-	-	-	-	-	Germany.
EDWARD N. BAILEY,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
ABRAM H. SHIRK,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
WILLIAM R. QUINNEY,	-	-	-	-	-	Alabama.
GEORGE SMITH,	-	-	-	-	-	Scotland.
L. B. HENDERSON,	-	-	-	-	-	North Carolina.
GEORGE W. WEMMER,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
DAVID J. STICKNEY,	-	-	-	-	-	Canada West.
M. R. BANNER,	-	-	-	-	-	North Carolina.
CHRISTIAN WASHBURN,	-	-	-	-	-	Massachusetts.
AUG. G. COLEMAN,	-	-	-	-	-	New York.
ALEX. MCKIRGAN,	-	-	-	-	-	New Jersey.
GEORGE B. SNOW,	-	-	-	-	-	New York.
JOHN D. UPSON,	-	-	-	-	-	South Carolina.
A. A. KIBLER,	-	-	-	-	-	South Carolina.
S. ATLEE BOCKIUS,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
W. A. ALLEN,	-	-	-	-	-	South Carolina.
E. W. ROBBINS,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
SAMUEL S. NONES,	-	-	-	-	-	Delaware.
JACOB WORL,	-	-	-	-	-	Alabama.
G. R. HEIST,	-	-	-	-	-	Virginia.
BERNARD KLOEK,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
P. CALAIS, M. D.,	-	-	-	-	-	Germany.
PHILIP T. ERVIN,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
CHARLES H. FARIES,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
C. S. CORFIELD,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
WILLIAM W. TOWNSEND,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
BERNARD M. GILDEA,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
ISAAC S. FOGG,	-	-	-	-	-	New Jersey.
H. M. WHITE,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
C. L. SIMMONS,	-	-	-	-	-	Alabama.
P. D. OLIVIER,	-	-	-	-	-	Louisiana.
W. T. HOPKINS,	-	-	-	-	-	Virginia.
GEORGE SALMON,	-	-	-	-	-	Canada.
W. F. TROUT, M. D.,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
H. M. SCHMIDT,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
JAMES B. CANDY,	-	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.

GRADUATES OF SESSION 1858-59.

FRANCISCO REY,	Cuba,	Filling Pulp Cavities.
ANDREW J. WATSON,	Pa.,	The Causes of Caries of the Teeth.
W. P. GIBSON,	Vt.,	The Causes of Caries of the Teeth.
GEORGE T. BARKER,	Pa.,	Diseases of the Maxillary Sinus and their Treatment.
HERRMANN ROTTENSTEIN,	Germany,	Development of the Teeth.
EDWARD N. BAILEY,	Pa.,	Reflex and Sympathetic Nervous Action.
ABRAM H. SHIRK,	Pa.,	Extracting Teeth.
WILLIAM R. QUINNEY,	Ala.,	Odontalgia, its Cause and Treatment.
DAVID J. STICKNEY,	C. W.,	Filling Teeth.
CHRISTIAN WASHBURN,	Mass.,	Dental Caries.
GEORGE B. SNOW,	N. Y.,	Manufacture of Instruments.
S. ATLEE BOCKIUS,	Pa.,	Preservation of the Temporary Teeth.
E. W. ROBBINS,	Pa.,	Dental Caries.
SAMUEL S. NONES,	Del.,	Mechanical Dentistry.
JACOB WORL,	Ala.,	Caries of the Teeth.
BERNARD KLOEK,	Pa.,	Manufacturing Gold Foil.
P. CALAIS, M. D.,	Germany,	Certain Phenomena of the Pulp.
PHILIP T. ERVIN,	Pa.,	Diseases of the Alveolar Process.
CHARLES H. FARIES,	Pa.,	Diseases of the Maxillary Sinus.
WILLIAM W. TOWNSEND,	Pa.,	Impressions of the Mouth.
B. W. GILDEA,	Pa.,	Extracting Teeth.
ISAAC S. FOGG,	N. J.,	Dental Caries.
C. L. SIMMONS,	Ala.,	Mechanical Dentistry.
JAMES B. CANDY,	Pa.,	Dentifrices and Washes.
WILLIAM F. TROUT, M. D.,	Pa.,	Alveolar Abscess.

DEMONSTRATORS' REPORT OF 1858-59.

OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Gold Fillings,	565
Tin Fillings,	335
Amalgam Fillings,	5
Treatment and Filling of Pulp Cavities,	91
Superficial Caries Removed,	11
Extraction of Teeth and Roots,	3,074
Removal of Salivary Calculi,	42
Pivot Teeth Inserted,	18
Treatment of Inflammation of Gums,	4
" Disease of the Antrum,	2
" Alveolar Abscess,	12
" Necrosis of Inf. Maxillary,	1
" Irregularities,	12
Total,	4,172

D. H. GOODWILLIE, DEMONSTRATOR.

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT.

Whole Sets of Teeth,	18
Upper Sets,	27
Whole Upper Sets, Block,	12
Partial " "	5
Partial Sets of Single Teeth,	61
Obdurators,	4
Irregularity Plates,	4
Whole Number of Teeth Mounted,	1,141

J. J. GRIFFITH, DEMONSTRATOR.

FACULTY.

C. N. PEIRCE, D. D. S.,

PROFESSOR OF DENTAL PHYSIOLOGY AND OPERATIVE DENTISTRY.

T. L. BUCKINGHAM, D. D. S.,

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND METALLURGY.

J. L. SUESSEROTT, D. D. S.,

PROFESSOR OF PRINCIPLES OF DENTAL SURGERY AND THERAPEUTICS.

J. H. McQUILLEN, D. D. S.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

WILLIAM CALVERT, D. D. S.,

PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL DENTISTRY.

D. H. GOODWILLIE, D. D. S.,

DEMONSTRATOR OF OPERATIVE DENTISTRY.

J. J. GRIFFITH, D. D. S.,

DEMONSTRATOR OF MECHANICAL DENTISTRY.

The next Annual Session of this Institution will commence on the first Monday of November, 1859, and will continue until the first day of March, ensuing.

Fees for the Course, (Demonstrator's Ticket included,) \$100 00	
Matriculation, (paid but once,) - - - -	5 00
Diploma Fee, - - - -	30 00

T. L. BUCKINGHAM, *Dean*,

No. 243 North Ninth Street.

